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SENSITIVE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WHITE HOUSE SUPPORT STAFF

CIA/OCI

WHISWH 740215

Date: February 15, 1974

Item No.: WH #5

DIRECTOR: WHITE HOUSE SITUATION ROOM

SUBJECT: SINKING OF SOUTH KOREAN FISHING BOAT BY NORTH KOREAN NAVY

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North Korean naval ships from a squadron based at Cho-do sank a South Korean fishing boat late yesterday in international waters north west of the Northern Limit Line. Another South Korean boat apparently was damaged and may have been taken under tow by the North Koreans.

Pyongyang's action appears aimed at keeping fishing vessels out of contested waters near the North Limit Line. South Korean fishing boats usually move into these waters at this time of year. North Korea has seized a number of these in the past, but has usually released ships and crew later.

The evidence available thus far suggests that the North Koreans were not deliberately trying to provoke Seoul.

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